REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-9, 11-12, 16-17, 19, 25, 27-28, 30-31, 34, 37, 39-41, 43, and 47 were amended. Amendments to the claims are supported in the specification. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies and the insight extended by the Examiner in the interview that was conducted on February 7, 2007. The amendments to the claims were discussed. Upon clarification of the definition of physical token as the physical object that identifies the role, duty, or functionality of a computing device as stated in the Applicants' specification, it was agreed that *Cariffe* did not anticipate the Applicants' claims. The Examiner indicated that, according to policy, a further search would be required following the Response to Office Action. The substance of the interview is summarized in the remarks below.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Cariffe* et al., System and Method for Configuring a Printing Device for a Physical Environment, U.S. Patent No. 7,106,186 (September 12, 2006) (hereinafter "*Cariffe*"). This rejection has been overcome.

The Examiner stated:

> 5. Regarding Claims 1, 30, and 47, Cariffe teaches a system and method for configuring a printing device for physical environment.
>
> providing at least a first physical object (col. 2, line 41, 'physical environment 22, col. 2, lines 51 and 52, '...the physical environment may be a meeting room...'), the first physical object includes at least one characteristic (col. 2, line 57, 'a threshold physical proximity 26 ...'), the first physical object has role information (col. 2, lines 40 and 41, '...printing device 12 that may be moved from a position...', col. 2, lines 60-62, 'As shown, threshold physical proximity 26 may vary with direction from the device.. .') associated therewith, and the characteristic is indicative of at least a first role associated with the first physical object (col. 2, lines 37-51); placing the first physical object in a physical relationship with a first computing device (col. 2, line 55, 'source device 16'); the first computing device with the first physical object (col. 2, lines 55-58)' receiving by the first computing device, the role information from the first physical object (col. 2, lines 55-67); and responsive to the role information being received, assigning the first role to the first computing device based on the role information (col. 3, lines 41-50).

Office Action dated January 17, 2007, pp. 2-3.

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed Cir. 1990). All limitations of the claimed invention must be considered when determining patentability. *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1582, 32 U.S.P.Q.2d 1031, 1034 (Fed Cir. 1994). In this case, *Cariffe* does not teach every element of the claimed invention arranged as they are in the claims.

Amended claim 1 reads as follows:

> 1. A method for assigning a role to a computing device in a network data processing system, the method comprising:
>
> providing at least a first physical token, wherein the first physical token includes at least one visible characteristic, wherein the first physical token has role information associated therewith, and wherein the at least one visible characteristic is indicative of at least a first role associated with the first physical token;
>
> placing at least the first physical token in a physical relationship with a first computing device;
>
> associating the first computing device with the first physical token;
>
> receiving, by the first computing device, the role information from the first physical token; and
>
> responsive to the role information being received, assigning the first role to the first computing device based on the role information.

First, *Cariffe* does not teach a physical token that has role information associated therewith as alleged by the Examiner. The Examiner cited the following passage of *Cariffe* in support of her allegation.

> Referring initially to FIG. **1**, a printing system according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown generally at **10**. Printing system **10** typically includes a printing device **12** that may be moved from a position, shown at **12**, that is outside a physical environment **22** to a position, shown at **12**, within the physical environment. As device **12** is moved, the device may be configured to determine that the device is positioned within the physical environment **22**, and adjust itself to a mode of operation that is useful in interacting with a source device **16** associated with the physical environment. Printing device **12** is further configured to establish a communication link **14** with source device **16**, and to communicate with the source device over communication link **14**, according to the adjusted mode of operation. By way of example, the physical environment may be a meeting room, and the source device may be a laptop computing device. The present invention, however, is not so limited.

Cariffe, column 2, lines 37-54.

Figure 1 of *Cariffe* is displayed below:

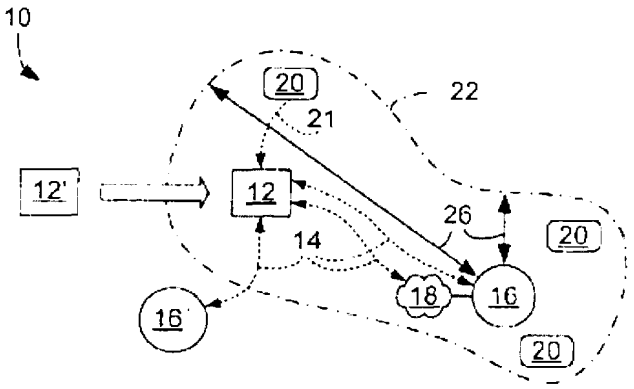

FIG. 1

In Figure 1 and above cited passages, *Cariffe* teaches a printer may change its configuration in response to a location change that includes a proximity to a source device. *Cariffe* does not teach that a role is assigned through a physical token. As stated in the specification of the present invention, "A role is defined by one or more tasks or functions to be performed by a computing device. For example, a server may be assigned a role of Web server or database server. A printer may be assigned a role of printer for human resources department." *Specification*, page 6, lines 5-9. No such role or role information is taught in *Cariffe.*

Further, no physical token is taught in *Cariffe.* The printer in *Cariffe* is not the same as the physical token of the present invention. Neither is the source device in *Cariffe* the same as the physical token of the present invention. *Cariffe* merely teaches a flexibility of function for a printer that is associated with location and proximity to a source device. Consequently, *Cariffe* does not teach a physical token wherein role information is associated with the physical token as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. There is no physical token in *Cariffe.* Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome.

Independent claims 30 and 47 contain features similar to claim 1. Therefore, these claims are also patentable over *Cariffe.* Since claims 2-29 and 31-46 also depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, the same distinctions between *Cariffe* and the claimed invention in the independent claims apply to these dependent claims. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-29 and 31-46 has been overcome.

Moreover, the dependent claims recite other additional combinations of features not taught by *Cariffe.* For example, regarding claim 6, the Examiner states:

> Regarding Claim 6, Cariffe teaches at least one characteristic includes visible markings (col. 2, line 52).

Claim 6 of the present invention is recited below:

> 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one visible characteristic includes one of a shape, a color, writing, and visible markings.

> The Examiner cited the following passage in support of her argument:
>
> By way of example, the physical environment may be a meeting room, and the source device may be a laptop computing device.

Cariffe, column 2, lines 52 and 53.

As previously discussed, *Cariffe* does not teach assigning roles or role information. Therefore, *Cariffe* cannot teach that receiving the role information includes "identifying the at least one visible characteristic of the physical token", as recited in claim 5. Nor does *Cariffe* teach that "at least one visible characteristic includes one of a shape, a color, writing and visible markings", as recited in claim 6 above. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claim 6 have been overcome.

Furthermore, *Cariffe* does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. Absent the Examiner pointing out some teaching or incentive to implement *Cariffe* and role information from a physical token, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify *Cariffe* to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify *Cariffe* in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using the Applicants' disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over *Cariffe* and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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